



Hector De La Torre

Assembly Member 50th District

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over 1,000 students, parents join Assemblymember De La Torre at 16th Annual Southeast College Conference

Southeast Cities hold the record for lowest college attendance statewide, conference is a key opportunity for local residents to increase access to higher education

Lynwood, Calif.—Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) invites students and parents in the region to the 16th Annual Southeast College Conference. The conference aims to close the gap in college and university attendance among students living in one of Los Angeles County's neediest communities.

"Over the years, the conference has had over 21,000 students and parents in attendance. The conference has helped over 15,000 students fulfill their educational aspirations," said De La Torre. "Education is one of my top priorities. It is great equalizer, and every year I look forward to working with the surrounding high schools to make higher education available to students in the region."

WHO: Assemblymember Hector De La Torre, over 1,000 students from local high schools, the Campaign for College Opportunity, alongside 50 postsecondary institutions including University of California Campuses, California State University Campuses, Harvard, MIT and other private and public institutions are scheduled to participate.

WHAT: Over 1,000 students and their parents join Assemblymember De La Torre at the 16th annual Southeast College Conference, local families and students will receive access to college experts, financial aid workshops, and career advisors at no cost.

WHY: According to the 2000 Census less than 5 percent of the residents in South Gate have a Bachelor's degree while an average of 4 percent of residents in the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, and Lynwood hold a college degree. These percentages are far below the state's average of 26 percent of the population that has a Bachelor's degree.

WHERE: **Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School**
5246 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lynwood, CA 90262

WHEN: **Saturday, October 11th, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.**
College Conference: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Background: The 16th Annual Southeast College Conference was established in 1993 to address the dire need for college and university outreach in one of the neediest region's in the Southeast Los Angeles County.

VISUALS: Thousands of students registering and participating in workshops.

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